



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/111,296 08/23/93 HOOD

L 37231.P004

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ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3309

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DATE MAILED: 08/16/94

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on _____ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____ month(s), 30 days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
3. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
6. _____

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. Claims 1-50 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. Claims _____ have been cancelled.

3. Claims _____ are allowed.

4. Claims _____ are rejected.

5. Claims _____ are objected to.

6. Claims 1-50 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been approved; disapproved (see explanation).

12. Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been received been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

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Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I. Claims 1-10, 17-26 and 38-44, drawn to a thermokeratoplastic probe and a method for denaturing tissue, classified in Class 606, subclass 4.

Group II. Claims 11-16, 27-32 and 45-50, drawn to a thermokeratoplastic probe system and a method for denaturing tissue, classified in Class 606, subclass 4.

Group III. Claims 33-37, drawn to a method for denaturing tissue, classified in Class 606, subclass 40.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions of Group I and Group II are disclosed as different combinations which are not connected in design, operation or effect. These combinations are independent if it can be shown that (1) they are not disclosed as capable of use together, (2) they have different modes of operation, (3) they have different functions, or (4) they have different effects. (MPEP 806.04, MPEP 808.01). In the instant case the combinations they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation.

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3. Inventions Group III and Groups I and II are disclosed as different combinations which are not connected in design, operation or effect. These combinations are independent if it can be shown that (1) they are not disclosed as capable of use together, (2) they have different modes of operation, (3) they have different functions, or (4) they have different effects.

(MPEP 806.04, MPEP 808.01). In the instant case the combinations they have different modes of operation in that the method as broadly claimed can be practiced by another apparatus such as any number of electrosurgical devices.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification between Group II and Groups I,II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of

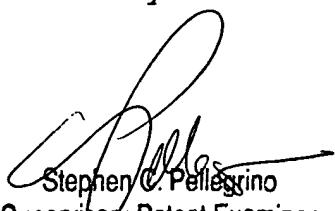
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inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sonya C. Harris whose telephone number is (703) 308-2216.



Stephen C. Pellegrino
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 330



S.C.H.
August 11, 1994